Sectt. Old II.27, New II.15– 61,000—18-12-53.

EDN (1955) Department.

Ms SERIES.

Closed
WS

G.O. No. 1353 Edn

Edn

Dated 26-6-59

[Despatch Abstract.]

Education: School Meals and School Improvement Schemes- Assessment of the working of the Schemes - Committee- Constituted.

Sect. II—Old 27, Nov

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Further Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ms	2149	Edn	9.10.63				

H2[illegible] / E6

D.o. No. 37566-E6./59-1. Edn dt. 26.5.59.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Edn. – School meals and School Improvement Schemes Assessment Committee – Appointment of members.

~~It is proposed to constitute a committee of Members of the Legislature to assess the working of the schemes of free school meals & school improvement. I am to enquire whether you are willing)~~

~~I am to enclose a copy of the proceedings of this Govt. No.x Edn. dated .., which is self-explanatory. I hope you will have no objection to serve on the Committee.~~

J.S
2/26/5/59

It is proposed to constitute a committee consisting of Sri K.S. Subramania Gounder (you / Sri K.S Subramania Gounder) as Chairman and Sri R. Krishnaswami Naidu (you / Sri R. Krishnaswami Naidu) and Sri K Sattanatha Karayalar (Sri K Sattanatha Karayalar / you) as members to assess the working of the schemes of i) free school (midday) meals & ii) School Improvement Projects organised by the Education Dept. I am to request you kindly to let me know whether ~~you~~ it will be possible for you to serve on the [illegible]

To

Sri K.S. Subramania Gounder M.L.A., Kanganapuram, Salem Dist. (~~[illegible]~~) pl-3 [illegible]

Sri R. Krishnaswami Naidu M.L.A., Railway Feeder Road, Srivilliputhur, Ramnad Dist (~~[illegible]~~) pl-3 [illegible]

Sri K. Sattanatha Karayalar M.L.A., 'Krishna Home' Shencottah, Tirunelveli Dist. (~~[illegible]~~) pl-3 [illegible]

K. S. Subramania Gounder, M. L. A.,
PRESIDENT,
Salem Co-operative Central Bank Ltd.,
AND
Salem Dt. Co-op. Supply & Marketing Society Ltd.,

'LAKSHMI SADANAM'
KONGANAPURAM (POST).
(SALEM DT.)

29th May, 1959.

DY. SECRETARY TO GOVT.
30 MAY 1959
82698
HEALTH, EDN. & LOCAL ADMN. DEPT.

Dear Sri Ramanathan,

Sub: EDUCATION - School meals and School Improvement schemes Assessment committee - Appointment of members.

Ref: Your D.O. No.37566-E6/59-1, Education. Dt.26th May, 1959.

* * *

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter quoted in the reference. I agree to serve as the Chairman of the committee to assess the working of the schemes of -

(i) Free School (Midday) Meals and

(ii) School improvement Projects, organised by the Education department.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

K. S. Subramania
29.5.59.

To
Sri K. V. Ramanathan, I.A.S.,
Deputy Secretary to Govt.,
Health, Education & Local Administration Dept.,
Fort St. George,
MADRAS - 9.

R. KRISHNASAMY NAIDU, M.L.A. 5 SRIVILLIPUTTUR.

2nd June, 1959.

To

Sri K.V. Ramanathan, I.A.S.,
Deputy Secretary, to Government,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

DY. SECRETARY TO GOVT.
- 3 JUN 1959
83714
HEALTH, EDN. & LOCAL ADMN. DEPT.

Dear Sir,

Your D.O.No. 37566-E6/59-1 dated 26-5-59.

While thanking you for the above D.O. letter, I am to state that I am prepared to serve on the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

2.6.59

6

E6

D.O. No 37566-E6/59-2. Edn. d 8.6.59.

37566 (E6/59)

Dear Sir,

Sub: Edn. – School meals and School Improvement Schemes Assessment Committee – Appointment of members

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(Replies received from the other two M.L.As. p3 and p5 cf)

Despatched 8/6/59.

p/c

Ref: D.O. No 37566/E6/59-1 Edn dated 26/5/59

I am to request you kindly to send ~~Send~~ your reply to the D.O. cited at an early date.

To

Sri K. Sattanatha Karayalar M.L.A
'Krishna Home'
Shencottah
Tinnevelli Dist.

8/6/59

8/6/59 J.S

K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR B. A., M. L. A.

MEMBER, MADRAS UNIVERSITY SENATE.

SHENCOTTAH.

13-6-59.

DY. SECRETARY TO GOVT.
15 JUN 1959
90674
HEALTH, EDN. & LOCAL ADMN. DEPT.

D.O. No.142/59.

Dear Sir,

Sub: - Education - School meal and School Improvement Schemes - Assessment Committee--Appointment of Members.

Ref: - Your D.O. No.37566-E.6/59-2. Education.

I hereby give my consent to serve in the "School Meals and School Improvement Schemes Assessment Committee," if it is constituted as proposed in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

K Sattanatha Karayalar.

To

Sri K.V. Ramanathan, I.A.S.,
Deputy Secretary to Govt.,
M A D R A S.

(10)

K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR B.A., M.L.A.
MEMBER, MADRAS UNIVERSITY SENATE.
SHENCOTTAH

13 JUN 1959

D.O. No. 143/59.

Dear Sir,

Sub: - Education - School meal and School Improvement Schemes - assessment Committee--Appointment of Members.

Ref: - Your D.O. No. 37566-E.6/59-2. Education.

I hereby give my consent to serve in the "School Meals and School Improvement Schemes Assessment Committee," if it is constituted as proposed in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

To

Sri K.V. Ramanathan, I.A.S.,
Deputy Secretary to Govt.,
M A D R A S.

Pl issue
2326

H.E.L.A. (E6) Deptt.

Sub: EDUCATION - Supply of School Meals and School Improvement Schemes - Assessment of the working of the Schemes - Committee Constituted.

ORDER (MS) NO. 1353 EDN. DATED 26.6.59

Copy at (X)

The Government in their order No.1850, Education, dated 8-11-1957 approved a scheme for the supply of free midday meals to poor pupils in ele. schools and announced assistance to it on a particular scale and subject to certain conditions. Rules were also framed to regulate the payment of grants from State funds for the supply of midday meals. The scheme has been included in the Five Year Plan and 50% of the cost of the scheme is met by the Government of India. A sum of Rs 35 lakhs was spent by Govt. on the scheme in 1958-59, and a provision of Rs 60.70 ~~lakhs~~ lakhs has been made for the year 1959-60. The aim is to provide free meals for five lakhs of poor ~~px~~ children in 1959-60. There is a total provision of Rs 164.77 lakhs for this scheme in the Second Five Year Plan. The scheme is expected to expand rapidly involving considerable expenditure from State and Union funds by the middle of the Third plan period.

p1 / (T)

verified in Plan Book for 1959-60.

2. Independent of the scheme of midday meals sanctioned by the Govt., another voluntary movement called the School Improvement Scheme has been initiated by the Education Department. Under this scheme, large sums of money have been collected as donations from the general public. As many as 35 School Development

para 2 supra / (T)

8

Conferences have been held in various districts of the State upto 11-3-1959. The total number of schemes undertaken for execution with reference to the ~~conclusions~~ decisions reached at the Conferences held till 28-2-1959, is about 16,800. The total value of the schemes ~~expected~~ is about Rs 220 lakhs while the value of the collections in cash and kind made on the spot at the various conferences is about Rs 50 lakhs.

3. ~~A~~ No detailed ~~examination of the arrangements made for the working of the two schemes~~ assessment of the working of the two schemes mentioned in para 1 and 2 above ~~and a scrutiny of the accounts relating to the expenditure incurred on the two schemes appear to be necessary, so that it can be ensured that both the schemes are working on proper lines and serve the purpose for which they were started.~~ has so far been undertaken. Government are of the view that such an assessment is necessary ⊗. ~~The Govt.~~ Madras Govt. direct that a small Committee of Legislators be constituted to make an assessment, on the lines indicated above, of the working of the two schemes and submit a report to Government. The Committee will be called the "School Meal and School Improvement Schemes Assessment Committee", and will consist of the following members:--

1. Sri K.S. Subramania Gounder, M.L.A. - Chairman
2. Sri R. Krishnaswami Naidu, M.L.A.
3. Sri K. Sattanatha Karayalar, M.L.A.

4. The Committee will be treated as a first class committee and the members will be eligible for t.a. and d.a. at the rates ~~prescribed in the Leg. Travelling Allowance Rules, 1955.~~ admissible to non-official members of the first class Committees.

Taken from note prepared for 'Budget Demand'.

⊗ This will include an examination of the arrangements made for the working of the schemes, the accounting procedure followed in respect of the sums received and expended, and the steps taken to eliminate wastage and to ensure that the scheme results in maximum benefit to the school children and the schools. As far as the school meals scheme is concerned, Govt. have framed rules to regulate its working. The actual working of the scheme will have to be examined in the light of these rules.

5. The Committee will first discuss the question with the D.P.I. and decide the procedure to be adopted in making the assessment. After this assessment is made of the working of the schemes, the Committee will submit a report to Govt. in due course. Copies of G.O.1850, Education, dated 8-11-1957 sanctioning the scheme of free school meals and of a note on the free school meals scheme and programme for school improvement in the State are enclosed for the use of the Members. The D.P.I. is requested to furnish to the members any other material he has on the two schemes.

6. The expenditure will be debited to "37. Education - p. Direction".

7. This order is issued with the concurrence of Finance Deptt - vide their U.O.Note No. 63920/Alls/59-d 25/6/59.

To Sri K.S. Subramania Gounder, M.L.A., 'Lakshmi Sadanam' Konganapuram Post Salem Dist.

Sri R. Krishnaswami Naidu, M.L.A. Srivilliputhur, Ramanthapuram Dist.

Sri K.Sattanatha Karayalar, M.L.A Shencottah.

The D.P.I.

The A.G.

A.G. by name

The Leg. Deptt.

The Public (I & P)

The Fin. Deptt.

Copy to C.S.P. for publn. of a notn. in the gazette.

s.cs.

(Clean copy 15
16/11-13 auto)

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS..
ABSTRACT.

EDUCATION - Supply of School Meals and School Improvement Schemes - Assessment of the working of the Schemes - Committee Constituted.
x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x

Health, Education and Local Administration Department.

G.O.Ms.No.1353, Education, dated the 26th June, 1959.

ORDER:

The Government in their order No.1850, Education dated 8th November 1957 approved a scheme for the supply of free midday meals to poor pupils in elementary schools and announced assistance to it on a particular scale and subject to certain conditions. Rules were also framed to regulate the payment of grants from State funds for the supply of midday meals. The scheme has been included in the Five Year Plan and 50% of the cost of the scheme is met by the Government of India. A sum of Rs 35 lakhs was spent by Government on the scheme in 1958-59, and a provision of Rs 60.70 lakhs has been made for the year 1959-60. The aim is to provide free meals for five lakhs of poor children in 1959-60. There is a total provision of Rs 164.77 lakhs for this scheme in the Second Five Year Plan. The scheme is expected to expand rapidly involving considerable expenditure from State and Union funds by the middle of the Third plan period.

2. Independent of the scheme of midday meals sanctioned by the Government another voluntary movement called the School Improvement Scheme has been initiated by the Education Department. Under this scheme, large sums of money have been collected as donations from the general public. As many as 35 School Development Conferences have been held in various districts of the State upto 11th March, 1959. The total number of schemes undertaken for execution with reference to the decisions reached at the Conferences held till 28th February, 1959, is about 16,800. The total value of the schemes is about Rs 220 lakhs while the value of the collections in cash and kind made on the spot at the various conferences is about Rs 50 lakhs.

3. No detailed assessment of the working of the two schemes mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 above has so far been undertaken. Government are of the view that such an assessment is necessary. This will include an examination of the arrangements made for the working of the schemes, the accounting procedure followed in respect of the sums received and expended, and the steps taken to eliminate wastage and to ensure that the schemes result in maximum benefit to the school children and the schools. As far the school-meals scheme is concerned, Government have framed rules to regulate its working. The actual working of the scheme will have to be examined in the light of these rules. Government, therefore direct that a small Committee of Legislators be constituted to make an assessment on the lines indicated above, of the working of the two schemes and submit a report to Government. The Committee will be called the "School Meal and School Improvement Schemes Assessment Committee", and will consist of the following members:--

1. Sri K.S. Subramania Gounder, M.L.A. - Chairman.
2. Sri R. Krishnaswami Naidu, M.L.A.
3. Sri K. Sattanatha Karayalar, M.L.A,

Sri Sattanatha...

4. The Committee will be treated as a first class committee and the members will be eligible for travelling allowance and daily allowance at the rates admissible to non-official members of the First Class Committee.

5. The Committee will first discuss this question with the Director of Public Instruction and decide the procedure to be adopted in making the assessment. After this assessment of the working of the Schemes, is made, the Committee will submit a report to Government in due course. Copies of G.O.Ms.No.1850, Education, dated 8th November 1957 sanctioning the scheme of free school meals and of a note on the free school meals scheme and programme for school improvement in the State are enclosed for the use of the Members. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to furnish to the members any other material he has on the two schemes.

6. The expenditure will be debited to "37. Education - p. Direction".

7. This order is issued with the concurrence of Finance Department - vide their U.O.Note No.63920-alls/59, dated 25th June, 1959.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

K.V. RAMANATHAN,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To

Sri K.S. Subramania Gounder, M.L.A., 'Lakshmi Sadanam', Konganapuram Post, Salem District (with enclosure)
Sri R. Krishnaswami Naidu, M.L.A., Srivilliputhur, Ramanathapuram District (with enclosure)
Sri K. Sattanatha Karayalar, M.L.A., Shencottah (with enclosure)
The Director of Public Instruction, Madras-6.
The Accountant-General, Madras
Sri S. Natarajan, Accountant-General, Madras-18
The Legislature Department
The Public (I & P) Department
The Finance Department
Copy to the Controller of Stationery and Printing for publication of a notification in the gazette.

True copy/Forwarded/By order.

Superintendent.

sh/26-6

37566/E6/59

Notes

17

H.E.& L.A.(Deptt) E6

The former Secretary, Sri R.A.Gopalaswami wanted that a note should be put up regarding the assessment to be undertaken of the Midday meals and the School Imppovement Schemes of the Education Department. A note has accordingly been prepared and is submitted herewith. For orders whether the suggestions summarised in para (8) will be approved. If they are, the D.P.I. will be first asked to prepare and send the draft questionnaire. After it is received and approved, orders may issue regarding the assessment to be undertaken of these two schemes.

18/3

18.3.59

M(F)

M(F)

I do not think the proposals contained in para (8) will serve the purpose in view: I am inclined to think a small Committee of legislators will be more useful. The following members may be appointed and they may be asked to make an assessment of the working of the scheme and submit a report to Govt.

Sri K.S. Subramania Gounder M.L.A. - Chairman

Sri R. Krishnaswami Naidu M.L.A.

Sri Sattanatha Karalayar M.L.A.

Cr 2

A | This would be treated as a I class Committee for T.A & other allowances.

The Committee will first discuss the ~~problem~~ matter with the D.P.I and decide the procedure to be adopted.

(signature)
25.5.59.

DY. SECRETARY TO GOVT.
25 MAY 1959
HEALTH, EDN. & LOCAL ADMN. DEPT.

(initials)
20/5

Please see the orders in circulation above. A draft order is submitted below for approval.

2. It is presumed ~~that~~ the three M.L.As may be willing to serve on the proposed Committee. However it is for consideration whether, while forwarding the order, a D.O ~~requesting~~ assuming their willingness to serve on the Committee may be sent.

A draft D.O. is also submitted for approval.

Finance may see before issue.

~~After finance have seen the file,~~ The ~~xx~~ D.O. below may go to the ~~M.L.A~~ M.L.A's. After their replies are received, a G.O. can issue.

(initials)
26/5

a word to para 5 of draft

As VI | DS I | Secy
Fin

The willingness of the members may first be ~~those to~~ ascertained.

(initials)
26/5/59

(initials)
26/5/59 ~~DS I~~

~~Finance~~

9

The orders in Circulation on pages 1-2 ante may be perused.

The three M.L.As who were addressed for their willingness to serve on the proposed Assessment Committee, have all agreed to serve on the Committee.

p3, p5 & p9 cr

A draft ~~G.O.~~ order is submitted below for approval.

Finance may see u.o. before issue.

Sd/-
18/6/59

Sd/-
19/6/59

Sd/-
19/6

HELA. U.O. No 37566-Ed/59-3
20.6.59.

Finance (All.)

The orders in Circulation on pp 1.2 above may be perused. The draft order below may be accepted subject to the amendments indicated in pencil to para 4 and 2 of the draft. (Item A and 2 above it seeks to the attention of M(F) that the members of the Committee should be allowed TA & DA as admissible to non-official members of the first class Committees. see also Ruling 8(e) under Rule 12 of Part III of the Manual of Spl. Pay & Alws. Vol. I

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
~~63915~~
22 JUN 1959
63920
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

DY. SECRETARY TO GOVT.
25 JUN 1959
HEALTH, EDN. & LOCAL ADMN. DEPT.

p 200 of Bk. 116.

Sd/-
28/6/59

I move as modified.
Sd/-
24/6

Sd/-
Hela

Fin U.O. 63920/Alls/55
24.6.59

NOTE ON THE FREE SCHOOL MEAL SCHEME AND PROGRAMME OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT IN MADRAS STATE.

--

The directive principle of State Policy embodied in the constitution that all children upto the age of fourteen should be provided with free and compulsory education by 1960 is, it is now accpted, not possible of implementation. It has now been decided that the aim should be to bring all children between the ages of 6 and 11 to school by the end of the Third Plan period. The successful implementation of even this policy will depend upon special steps being taken to increase enrolment in Elementary Schools and to avoid wastage caused by pupils staying away before completing the course of Elementary Education. Two such special steps which have been taken in Madras State are the supply of free meals to poor children in Elementary Schools and the programme of school improvement with the help of the community. This note gives an account of the history and development of these two schemes.

2. The provision of a free meal at midday to all Harijan children in the Harijan Welfare Schools in the State has been part of the State's Welfare programme for sometime now. The Corporation of Madras has also been providing a free meal at midday to the poor children in the Elementary schools run by it. It was in 1956 however that the necessity for extending this scheme to as many schools as possible was recognised. That it would induce the poor people to send their children to school was expected. What was also realised was that if poverty was the main reason why children were not sent to school in the rural areas, undernourishment was the cause of many of the children who did attend the school being poor students. Hungry children cannot make good students. The provision

22

of a free meal in school was therefore not only an incentive to regular attendance at school but also a necessary stop for the effective education of the children. To quote what the State Legislature Committee on the White Paper on Education said of this problem "There is no doubt about the prevalence of undernourishment and malnutrition even among the children who are already enrolled in school. This is bound to be much greater among the pupils who are not enrolled. Even if no direct educational advantage is gained, the removal of undernourishment among school-children will have a profoundly beneficial effect on the health, strength and happiness of the next generation. The expenditure on free school meals is thus justified from a far more important point of view than the spread of primary education and liquidation of illiteracy. Even from the strictly educational point of view, we believe the benefit would be considerable. As undernourished child cannot derive the full benefit from school education even if it does attend school. Further it will facilitate the enforcement of compulsory enrolment, if the excuse which the Elementary Education Reform Committee has referred to as the need for earning a few annas can be overruled as a ground for exemption. The atmosphere needed for such enforcement is likely to be very favourable, if the authority responsible for enforcement is also in a position to offer an inducement of this nature."

3. A scheme for the provision of free school meals in elementary schools organised on a purely voluntary basis was started by the Education Department in July 1956. The basic idea of the scheme was to get the people of every local area to provide a free meal at midday for all the poor children attending the elementary schools in the area. The meal that was served was a simple one consisting in most places of cooked rice with sambar or curd. The response of the people was immediate and enthusiastic. The expenditure on

24

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3. A scheme for the provision of free school meals in elementary schools organised on a purely voluntary basis was started by the Education Department in July 1956. The basic idea of the scheme was to get the people of every local area to provide a free meal at midday for all the poor children attending the elementary schools in the area. The meal that was served was a simple one consisting in most places of cooked rice with sambar or curd. The response of the people was immediate and enthusiastic. The expenditure on

25.

the scheme was met in several different ways. In most places cash donations for this purpose were collected and a local non-official committee was constituted to organise collections and to arrange for the preparation and distribution of the food. In some other places one or a number of well-to-do persons came forward to meet the entire expenditure on the scheme in the school in the area. One way in which this was done was for the landowners of the village to setapart, at the time of harvest, enough foodgrains to feed the poor children of the local school throughout the year. In some areas, food-grains were collected either from the well-to-do children of the school or from the houses of the well-to-do in the area and used for the provision of free meals. In almost all the Government Basic Training Schools, the teacher trainees undertook to feed the poor pupils of the Model Schools where they had their teaching practice. The extra food that was necessary for this purpose was cooked along with the regular meal of the teacher trainees and the extra cost was shared by them. There were also cases of schools in which the teachers themselves came forward to see to the feeding of some of the children in the school. In certain villages, each house undertook to prepare the food for a specified number of pupils every day while in some others the houses took it by turn to prepare the food necessary for all the poor boys of the school. A heart-warming feature was that in several places, the not-so-well-to-do also came forward with their contributions towards the expenses on the scheme. The movement achieved striking success and was taken up in many centres. There was no doubt that it had caught the imagination of the people. It received the support of all the political parties and the press, who gave it the publicity it so well deserved.

4. As expected, this movement resulted in an increase of enrolment in almost every school where it was started. There

were other results besides. It led to a small measure of social revolution. The reluctance on the part of non-Harijan poor parents to allow their children to sit down to the free meal alongside Harijan children disappeared as time went on and the children of all communities sat down together in the dining hall to the midday meal. It also stimulated increased interest in the school and its functioning on the part of the people of the village participating in the voluntary scheme. This resulted in an improved school-community relationship.

5. For the first year the movement remained non-official and voluntary, the role of the Officers of the Education Department being limited to catalysing the activity of the Village community. In December, 1956, the State Legislature Committee on Education recommended this scheme for adoption throughout the State as one of the methods of development of Primary Education and of achieving full enrolment in the Primary Schools. Accordingly, in November, 1957 the State Government decided to place the scheme on a regular footing and to subsidise it as a part of the State Education Plan. Rules were framed for the implementation of the scheme and it was laid down that committees should be constituted for each village or town or, if necessary, for each school or group of schools in a local area to organise collections from the people of the area, to select the students to be fed and to prepare and distribute the food. The committees were to meet the entire non-recurring expenditure connected with the scheme, while the Government undertook to pay towards the recurring expenditure, a grant calculated at the rate of 6 naye paise per meal per pupil or the amount by which the actual expenditure exceeded 4 naye paise per meal per pupil whichever was less. The Government of India agreed to meet 50% of the expenditure of this Government towards subsidy for the scheme. Thus the movement continued, in great

28

28

part, to be a voluntary people's movement organised by the people themselves. It has spread considerably in the last one year and the scheme is now in force in about 11000 elementary schools and food is provided for about three and a half lakhs of children. This is exclusive of the Harijan Welfare Schools where Government have been providing a free meal to all Harijan children and a few Municipal Schools where the Local body itself is doing so. The Scheme is also functioning in about ~~359~~ 365 Secondary Schools providing food for about 11000 students entirely out of public subscriptions. The success of this movement has demonstrated the enthusiastic willingness of the people to take part in a voluntary scheme of Social Service calculated to promote the spread of Primary Education. For details please see Annexure I.

6. The School Improvement Scheme of the Education Department of this State is another attempt at canalising the desire of the people to help the spread of Education into local efforts towards that end. In the last five years, Madras has made considerable progress in the field of Education, and one measure of this progress is the large number of primary schools opened throughout the State. There is no village in this State with a population of 500 and more which does not have an elementary school. But a large number of these schools are in need of adequate accommodation, equipment and other facilities for proper functioning. It was clear that they could not all hope to get all that they wanted, and that quickly, if they were to depend only upon assistance from the Government or local bodies, who had their own system of graded priorities. It was therefore decided to attempt to harness local resources for the development of Elementary Schools. The idea was first tried out in February 1958 in a development block in Chingleput District. A Survey was first made of

the condition and requirements of every school in the block. Then the teachers of every school contacted the people of the area served by the school informally, informed them of the needs of the local school and invited help towards realising these needs. The response being encouraging, the teachers discussed with the members of the public and the officers of the Education Department the provision of the requirements of the school according to a system of priorities. There was no centralised allocation of the funds promised as between specific projects of school improvement but the money collected was to be utilised with reference to the wishes of the donors. Everywhere in the block people came forward to provide most of the requirements of the local school. After preliminary discussions, a conference of all the teachers and the village leaders of the block was called at the block headquarters and in this conference the needs of each school and the names of the persons who had undertaken to assist in meeting these needs were announced. Some of the donations were handed over at the conference in the presence of the gathering. Schemes to the value of Rs.15,000/- were undertaken and a sum of Rs. 1300/- was collected as donation at the conference itself. The schemes included the provision of additional buildings and repairs to existing buildings, provision of additional furniture and school equipment, supply of clothing, books and slates to poor pupils and provision of various other facilities needed by the schools. Most of them were put through in the next six months.

7. The striking success of the experiment in the first block and the enthusiasm exhibited by the people encouraged the starting of similar people's movements in other development blocks also. Between February 1958 and now 26 116 such conferences have been held in the districts of this State.

A total number of more than ~~17,300~~ 13,800 schemes of school improvement have been undertaken for execution by the people themselves. The total value of these schemes is over One Crore eighty two lakhs of rupees. Collections to the value of nearly 49 lakhs of rupees have been made at the conferences bothin cash and kind. Some High Schools have also been brought into the scheme and a total of 3076 Elementary Schools, 51 High Schools, 6 Training Schools and three orphanages have so far been benefited by this movement*. Remarkable enthusiasm has been shown by the people of all the areas where these movements have been started and apart from the value of the donations, the number of people willing to assist in the development of the schools has been gratifyingly large; and they come from all classes of the people. Old ladies, illiterate farmers, rich philanthropists and poor villagers have all come forward with offers of assistance. The scope of the items of work undertaken as a result of the movement has also widened and such schemes as digging of wells and construction of sanitary conveniences, acquisition of lands for agricultural activities and play ground, construction of houses for teachers, provision of libraries and hobby facilities and organisation of supervised study classes in the nights for school children who are slow learners and have no facilities for study at home are some of the schemes undertaken for execution. More conferences are being organised and the hope of the Education Department is that the enthusiasm and fervour that the people have shown in attending to the needs of the village schools will result in all the schools in the State being provided with all the facilities essential for an efficient school.

* Please see Annexure II for details.

8. An Act has been passed by the Madras Legislature for the reform of Local Administration, providing for the constitution of Panchayat Unions according to a phased programme and these unions will have necessary jurisdiction, powers and funds in respect of primary education. Theirs will be the primary responsibility to see that, after the end of the Third Plan period, no child born in Madras State will grow up illiterate. The enthusiasm exhibited by the people in organising the scheme of free school meals and in contributing to the scheme of school improvement augurs well for the achievement of this aim of universal primary education in the State.

ANNEXURE I

PARTICULARS REGARDING MIDDAY MEALS SCHEME.

S.No.	Name of the District.	No. of Ely. schools where midday meals are provided.	No. of pupils fed.	Secondary schools in which midday meals are provided.	No. of pupils fed.
1.	Chingleput	854	24,576	19	770
2.	Villupuram	424	16,450	2	198
3.	South Arcot	448	18,731	~~10~~5	428
4.	Tanjore East	191	5,732	10	308
5.	Tanjore West	570	16,243	6	440
6.	Tiruchirapalli	662	15,868	42	902
7.	Pudukottai	159	5,265	2	15
8.	Madurai	947	31,298	32	1,993
9.	Dindigul	898	32,432	25	1,038
10.	Ramanathapuram	729	29,370	11	195
11.	Virudhunagar	914	35,572	15	282
12.	Tirunelveli South	597	24,143	31	591
13.	-do- Central	529	18,385	12	181
14.	-do- North	342	12,578	10	216
15.	Coimbatore	240	5,105	8	372
16.	Erode	167	2,807	25	504
17.	The Nilgiris	140	5,604	14	315
18.	Salem	1,084	19,681	55	1,542
19.	Dharmapuri	521	8,248	19	257
20.	Vellore	328	12,312	17	421
21.	Tiruvannamalai	295	10,032	5	88
	Total	10,979	3,50,432	365	11,057

Total No. of Elementary Schools in which Midday Meals are provided. ... 10,979

Total No. of children fed ... 3,50,432

No grant for High Schools.

Harijan Welfare Schools are not included in this Statement.

ANNEXURE II

PARTICULARS OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCES.

S. No.	Place of Conference.	District.	Date of Confe-rence.	No. of Schools.	No.of Schemes.	Total value of the Scheme	Value the co[illegible]tions in cash and kind on the spot.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
						Rs.	Rs.
1.	Kadambathur.	Chingleput	20-2-58.	76 Ele. 1 High	336	15000	1300
2.	Tiruvallore.	-do-	24-3-58.	102 Ele. 2 High 1 Trg.	350	25000	13000
3.	Valliyur.	Tirunelveli South.	25-7-58.	102 Ele.	507	127000	28000
4.	Thisayan-vilai.	-do-	28-7-58.	103 Ele.	666	133000	41000
5.	Valathi.	Villupuram	16-8-58	73 Ele. 1 High	164	124000	35547
6.	Poonamallee.	Chingleput	20-8-58	84 Ele. 5 High	380	126000	29000
7.	Tiruvottiyur.	-do-	23-8-58	87 Ele. 7 High	371	380000	67000
8.	Gangavalli.	Salem.	30-8-58	80 Ele.	128	57500	23000
9.	Attur.	-do-	7-10-58	75 Ele.	572	149000	51300
10.	Virudhunagar.	Virudhunagar	13-10-58	184 Ele. 17 High	1127	1378300	321000
11.	Nattarasan-kottai.	Ramanatha-puram.	15-10-58	72 Ele.	364	1255356	143970
12.	Nazareth.	Tirunelveli South.	20-10-58	139 Ele. 6 High 1 Trg. 3 Orp.	1565	1262000	101000
13.	T.Kallupatti.	Madurai.	1-11-58	65 Ele.	693	466000	66000
14.	Dharmapuri.	Dharmapuri.	8-11-58	54 Ele. 2 High	91	80900	21700
15.	Murugur.	Tiruchira-palli.	16-11-58	237 Ele. 10 High 2 Trg.	850	2216991	487378

Annexure II (Contd...)

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
						Rs.	Rs.
	Ramanathapuram.	Ramanatha-puram.	25-11-58	150 Ele.	800	2205760	130387
7.	Tirumangalam.	Madurai.	1-12-58	93 Ele.	600	627448	450487
8.	Melur.	-do-	2-12-58	179 Ele.	513	400331	165200
9.	Chingleput.	Chingleput.	22-12-58	312 Ele. 12 High 2 Trg.	1619	2304940	1128769
20.	Thandikudi (Hilly Tract)	Dindigul.	23-12-58	14 Ele.	134	268067	218640
21.	Dindigul.	-do-	23-12-58	129 Ele.	1595	751530	294875
22.	Mecheri.	Salem.	27-12-58	22 Ele.	122	91700 ~~41700~~	55971
23.	Kodaikanal (Hilly Tract)	Dindigul.	28-12-58	32 Ele.	349	268521	177541
24.	Ranipet.	Vellore.	2-1-59)			358000)	
25.	Nannilam.	Tanjore East.	5-1-59)	600 Ele.	*	460000)	*800000
26.	Ilayangudi.	Ramanatha-puram.	8-1-59)			2678162)	
		Total.		3136	14374	18210506	4852065

*Details are awaited.